

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 123871
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY MHUMPHREYS:ACDA/ISP:HMM
APPROVED BY JNEWHOUSE:ACDA/ISP
EUR:JGOODBY
PM:JKAHAN
S/S:TGMARTIN

-----109210 160318Z /62

P R 160238Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 123871

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: US CONSULTATIONS WITH FRG ARMS CONTROL
COMMISSIONER RUTH

REFS: A. BONN 21590 (DTG 301422Z DEC 77)
B. LONDON 171976 (DTG 171417Z OCT 77)
C. STATE 284248 (DTG 291801Z NOV 77)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON MAY 12 FRG ARMS CONTROL COMMISSIONER
RUTH, ACCOMPANIED BY COL SCHREIBER (MOD), MET WITH SMALL
GROUP OF US REPRESENTATIVES, CHAIRED BY ACDA ASSISTANT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 123871

DIRECTOR NEWHOUSE, TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY SEVERAL CURRENT
MBFR ISSUES. RUTH DESCRIBED GERMAN-SOVIET EXCHANGES ON
MBFR DURING BREZHNEV-SCHMIDT MEETINGS EARLIER THIS MONTH.
RUTH ALSO SHOWED INTEREST IN FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR EUROPEAN
DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AS A MEANS TO AVOID "SPECIAL ZONE"
PROBLEM FOR FRG. HE WAS VERY RESERVED ON IDEA OF ENTERING
INTO DISCUSSION WITH SOVIETS IN VIENNA ON AVERAGE MANNING

LEVELS (AML). HE POINTED OUT GERMAN RESERVATIONS REGARDING US ASSOCIATED MEASURES PAPER. AND HE SAID GERMANS CANNOT ACCEPT "50 PERCENT SOLUTION" FOR SQUARING COLLECTIVITY/SUBCEILING CIRCLE. END SUMMARY.

2. GERMAN-SOVIET SUMMIT: RUTH SAID GERMANS HAD TWO OBJECTIVES RELATING TO MBFR IN THEIR TALKS WITH BREZHNEV: TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA; AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT MBFR IS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATION, NOT BILATERAL FRG-USSR MATTER. RUTH THOUGHT IT SIGNIFICANT THAT BREZHNEV ONLY REFERRED TO "PARITY" IN TERMS OF MANPOWER, NEVER IN RELATION TO EQUIPMENT. GERMANS THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO SAY PUBLICALLY WHAT THEY HAD ALREADY SAID PRIVATELY IN VIENNA ABOUT GERMAN WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN MBFR REDUCTIONS. FOR THIS REASON, JOINT FRG-SOVIET DECLARATION OF INTENT MADE SEVERAL REFERENCES INDIRECTLY TO THIS FACT. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSION WITH RUTH, TARASOV SAID THAT EAST IS STUDYING WESTERN INITIATIVE AND HE MADE SOME "FAVORABLE NOISES" ABOUT INITIATIVE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EAST WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE EARLY REACTION. HE ALSO SAID THAT EAST IS WORKING ON COUNTER-PROPOSAL. WHILE TARASOV WOULD NOT DESCRIBE NATURE OF EASTERN COUNTER-PROPOSAL, RUTH BELIEVES IT MIGHT BE NEW VERSION OF EASTERN "FREEZE" IDEA, WITH PERHAPS TOKEN REDUCTIONS. TARASOV SUGGESTED TO RUTH THAT AML DISCUSSION WOULD BE GOOD WAY TO SETTLE DATA PROBLEM. RUTH REPLIED THAT, IF EAST AND WEST UNDERTOOK AML
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 123871

DISCUSSION, WEST WOULD HAVE TO GO INTO MORE DETAIL ON STRUCTURE DATA ITSELF. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, RUTH BELIEVED SOVIETS MAY USE WESTERN INITIATIVE TO MOVE AWAY FROM DATA DISCUSSION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN TALKS WITH BREZHNEV, SAID RUTH, IT WAS CLEAR THAT DATA IS THE CRITICAL MBFR PROBLEM. RUTH SPECULATED THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO MOVE INTO ARMS CONTROL DISCUSSION IN MBFR WHERE WE WILL EITHER SUCCEED IN OBTAINING GREATER FLEXIBILITY FROM SOVIETS ON DATA, OR WE WILL RUN INTO SEVERE ROADBLOCK THAT COULD STALL NEGOTIATIONS.

3. DATA DISCUSSION: RUTH STRESSED THAT CURRENT EFFORTS IN VIENNA SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD OBTAINING AGREEMENT ON DATA BECAUSE "THIS IS THE BASIC PROBLEM WE HAVE IN MBFR." WHEN PRESSED TO DESCRIBE HOW WE CAN MOVE DATA DISCUSSION FORWARD WITHOUT ACCEPTING EASTERN POSITION ON AML DISCUSSION, RUTH SAID THERE MAY BE OTHER WAYS TO MOVE DATA DISCUSSION FORWARD WITHOUT INVOLVING AML. FOR EXAMPLE, HE POINTED TO NEED TO CLARIFY EASTERN EXCLUSIONS. RUTH STRESSED THAT WEST HAS TO DEVISE MEANS TO GIVE DATA DISCUSSION MORE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. HE ADDED THAT EAST MAY WANT TO SHIFT ATTENTION FROM DATA TO EQUIPMENT IN

COMING MONTHS. FINALLY, HE SAID THAT BETTER WAY TO APPROACH DATA DISCUSSION IS FIRST TO ESTABLISH AGREED "CRITERIA" (I.E., DEFINITIONS) FOR DATA DISCUSSION, THEN FOR EAST AND WEST TO TABLE DATA ACCORDING TO AGREED "CRITERIA" AND ENTER INTO DISCUSSION OF COMPARATIVE DATA.

4. EUROPEAN DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE: RUTH SAID THAT FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR EUROPEAN DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE EXAMINED SERIOUSLY AND WITH OPEN MIND, BECAUSE IT EXPANDS AREA OF APPLICATION BEYOND NGA, THUS REDUCING FRG'S CONCERN ABOUT BEING THE PRINCIPAL COMPONENT OF A SPECIAL ZONE IN CENTRAL EUROPE, AND BECAUSE IT EXPANDS AREA OF APPLICATION TO INCLUDE EUROPEAN RUSSIA. RUTH NOTED THAT FRG HAS ALWAYS PREFERRED THAT STABILIZING MEASURES BE APPLIED TO AREA
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 123871

GOING BEYOND NGA. HE RECALLED THAT IN 1973 FRG HAD PREFERRED TITLE OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS THAT WOULD HAVE ATTACHED QUALIFIER "IN CENTRAL EUROPE" ONLY TO "MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS" AND NOT TO "ASSOCIATED MEASURES." WHILE GERMANS LOST THAT ISSUE, THEY HAVE NEVER GIVEN UP DESIRE TO SEE STABILIZING MEASURES APPLIED ON WIDER BASIS THAN NGA. WE EXPLAINED TO RUTH THE MANY DIFFICULTIES WE FIND WITH FRENCH PROPOSAL, NOT LEAST OF ALL THE ENORMOUS NEGOTIATING DIFFICULTIES THAT WOULD ACCOMPANY 36-NATION FORUM COMPRISED OF COUNTRIES WITH VERY DIFFERENT SECURITY SITUATIONS AND DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS OF HOW TO MEET THEIR SECURITY NEEDS THROUGH ARMS CONTROL MEASURES.

5. ASSOCIATED MEASURES: RUTH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GERMANS WERE QUITE PREPARED TO PURSUE COMPLETE, TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF ALL PROPOSED ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN MBFR WORKING GROUP. HE RECALLED, HOWEVER, SERIOUS POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES THAT FRG FINDS WITH AERIAL AND GROUND MOBILE INSPECTION. IN DISCUSSING OTHER MEASURES PROPOSED BY US, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT GERMANS ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO GO BEYOND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THEIR MOST RECENT STABILIZING MEASURES PAPER (REF A). RUTH AND SCHREIBER RESISTED PRENOTIFICATION OF MOVEMENTS WITHIN AREA, AND LIMITATION ON SIZE OF OUT-OR-GARRISON ACTIVITY. IN CONNECTION WITH LATTER, SCHREIBER NOTED THAT TRAINING ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE EXEMPTED. THERE WAS NO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF OTHER MEASURES PROPOSED BY US.

6. 50 PERCENT RULE: JUST AS MEETING WAS BREAKING UP, RUTH REMARKED THAT GERMANS COULD NOT ACCEPT "50 PERCENT RULE" AS SUGGESTED BY UK IN ITS NON-PAPER (REF B). IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, HOWEVER, RUTH SAID THAT GERMANS COULD NOT THINK OF BETTER FORMULA FOR SOLVING COLLECTIVITY/SUBCEILINGS ISSUES. HE ADDED THAT BONN HAS NOT COMPLETED ASSESSMENT OF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 123871

INFORMAL US PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT (REF C). VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE123871
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ACDA/ISP:HMM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780205-1276
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780553/aaaabtfe.tel
Line Count: 176
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e5453e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 BONN 21590, 78 LONDON 171976, 78 STATE 284248
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2676909
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: US CONSULTATIONS WITH FRG ARMS CONTROL COMMISSIONER RUTH
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
To: BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e5453e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014